1/27/75

Dear Mr. Kotikov,

I read your letter of 12/31/74 when I got it. I laid it aside hoping for time for a longer answer and hoping to be able to think of someone who could be of help to you. In this time, no one has come to mind. And the works stacks up, does not diminish, so I have less, not more time.

Kelley's letters to you do not mean that you have to be a professional historian and the law does not say this. In fact the law says anyone, I think any "person." So, my first suggestion would be that you respond by saying that your own background and experience qualify you to make this study. You are probably better qualified than a professional historian. Kelley's words are "as a person engaged in historical research," not as a professional historian. His second letter adds to this "the historical interest of the subject," and on that you should have no trouble explaining a legitimate one.

If you fear doing this, I think you would want someone near you. I don't know anyone in Philadelphia who could be of help. If you do not want to undertake this onx your own, one who might be able to make a good suggestion is Jack McKinney. When I last heard from him he was writing a column for the Phila. Daily News. He used to have an excellent talk show on WCAU. Jack knows Phila. very well, if he can take the time to try to think of someone for you.

A writer would meet Kelley's interpretation of the new policy. I have not thought of one I can suggest, but if I do, I'll let you know.

What you wrote Hoover about was not secret from him or the Commission. It was one of their major problems. What he told you of the FBI's role you'll find in the last chapter of my second book. The other ballistics work has gone far past what you then saw. I have added enormously to it and have the most definitive work of all almost ready to print. I haven't the $15,000 or more it would cost. All that this work needs is knowing the limits of the appendix (I've much more than can possibly be published) and adding the appendix to the index already preapred of the text. What I'm trying to tell you is that true as what you set forth is, it also today is very primitive. My own work is very far past that. And it has great quantities of "new evidence," including evidence the Warren Commission and the FBI didn't have. Also didn't want.

Belin was the right man for the right job when Ford appointed him, no?

Good luck, and do try,